



Minutes of Meeting of Gadsden Airport Authority Friday, October 20, 2023

The Gadsden Airport Authority held a meeting at Gadsden Fire Station #2, Meeting Room #3, 5121 Airport Road, Gadsden, AL 35906, on Friday, October 20, 2023.

In attendance: Board members Spencer Williams, Billy Billingsley, Tim McCartney, Craig Denney, Steve Reagan, and Kent Haney. Also attending were Airport Director Anthony Tarver, manager Randall Gober, Natalie Hobbs of Goodwin Mills Cawood engineering firm (GMC), Gadsden State Community College President Dr. Kathy L. Murphy, City of Gadsden Director of Engineering Heath Williamson, David Hooks of the Gadsden-Etowah County Industrial Development Authority, Gillette Sams of ACCS, and Airport Attorney Ed Howard.

Chairman Billingsley called the meeting to order.

A quorum was present.

Approval of September 2023 Minutes: Motion to approve and adopt the minutes was made by Tim McCartney, seconded by Steve Reagan, and the Board unanimously approved.

Approval of the September 2023 Financials: Motion to adopt and approve the financials was made by Spencer Williams, seconded by Tim McCartney, and unanimously passed by the Board.

Chairmen Billingsley mentioned that Tracy Mann, the representative of accounting firm BMSS was not in attendance due to the fact of not knowing the time of the Board Meeting and that she will be presenting at the November Board meeting.

Gillette Sams, ACCS Aviation Flight School Presentation: Chairman Billingsley introduced Mr. Gillette Sams of the Alabama Community College System for his presentation.

Mr. Sams mentioned that if the GAA were interested in starting a flight school, there would be many hurdles the airport would have to get over. He did not express that it was not possible; but because the FAA is backed up with over 500 applications for a Part 141

certificate, it is not accepting any new applicants at this time and the timeline would be at least a year or two to be considered. Mr. Sams mentioned that the airport in his opinion should focus more on attracting aviation businesses because of the potential the airport has. Mr. Sams mentioned that Gadsden State would also have to take on the costs and liability of insuring and paying for the aircraft and the Part 141 certificate.

Engineer Report: GMC representative Natalie Hobbs talked about the Runway 6/24 seal coat project which was supposed to start on October 23 but had since then been pushed back to October 30, 2023.

Director report: Airport Director Anthony Tarver talked about Airport Rules and Regulations and Minimum Standards and how important it is for the Airport to have these documents set in place, to avoid being taken advantage of or sued. He also mentioned that it acts as an extra blanket of security for the Airport and helps avoid liability for tenants' mishaps. He asked for Board approval; the Board, however, voted to table the matter because of some of the wording. Tim McCartney explained that the wording needs to be changed and worded better and that he wanted board attorney Ed Howard to look over it. Anthony Tarver had asked the board not to move forward in any new businesses coming to the airport until the documents have been approved.

City Engineering Director Williamson mentioned that he has reviewed the proposed Airport Rules and Regulations and found nothing wrong with both documents and would support their adoption.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Billingsley and a second by Spencer Williams, and the meeting was adjourned.